GENERAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

FLUORESCENT LAMPS

1. GENERAL

1.01 This section covers the recommended procedures for the handling and disposing of fluorescent lamps.

1.02 This section is reissued to advise the use of "special" eye protection rather than safety glasses when handling fluorescent lamps. Refer to Section 010-100-005 for information on "special" eye protection.

1.03 The majority of fluorescent lamps manufactured in the United States after 1945 have a calcium halo, phosphate phosphor, or similar coating inside the tube. This material is not known to be toxic or to cause any harmful reactions. However, it should be handled like any other "dust-like" material. Some lamps manufactured prior to 1949 had interior coating containing beryllium which could be harmful. Since there is a remote possibility that a tube might contain beryllium, report all accidents involving fluorescent tubes to the Medical Department.

1.04 ◗Since an implosion will occur when a fluorescent lamp is broken, "special" eye protection must always be worn to protect the eyes from flying glass whenever fluorescent lamps are handled.◖

1.05 If a fluorescent lamp is accidentally broken, leave the immediate area only if a concentration of dust occurs. When the dust has settled sweep the debris into dust pans for disposal. ◗Gloves and "special" eye protection must be worn as protection against the broken glass.◖

2. STORAGE

2.01 New fluorescent lamps should be stored in protective cartons.

3. INSTALLATION

3.01 When placing a fluorescent lamp in a fixture, ascertain that it is properly seated in the lamp holders at each end of the fixture and that the lamp is held securely in place by the lamp guards.

4. DISPOSAL

4.01 Unless it is necessary, used fluorescent lamps should not be intentionally broken but should be disposed of by placing in the carton in which received and removed from the building with other trash. The cartons should be tied with string or sealed with gummed tape to discourage children or others from taking the tubes. The scavenger should be warned that the cartons contain lamps.

4.02 If it is necessary at any location to break fluorescent lamps for disposal, they should be broken out of doors in suitable waste containers. ◗"Special" eye protection and gloves must be worn and breathing of the dust from the lamps should be avoided.◖

4.03 If breaking lamps outside is not practicable, the lamps may be broken indoors under water in a tank or receptacle suitable for this purpose. The hands should be washed after the lamps are broken to remove any residue of phosphor powder or mercury that may get on them.

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